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WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1922-TWENTY-EIGHT PAGES.

TWO CENTS.

TO GIVE STIMULUS TO HOME BUILDING

Urged as Remedy for Shortage at Public Hearing on Housing.

DISTRICT LAND QUESTION IS BROADLY DISCUSSED

Many Vacant Lots Are Pointed Out Upon Which Property Could Be Built.

Exemption of new homes from taxation for a number of years as a means of stimulating the erection of houses in Washington was advocated by speakers at the opening of the public hearing on housing in the boardroom of the District building today.

E. W. Oyster, formerly in the Disrious states. They conclude their the government would stop "fining" people in the form of taxation for putting improvements on vacant land 'we would get the houses we need to relieve the shortage."

The hearing opened with a discuseion of the land question, led by Wil-Jiam Deane Ham, chairman of the subcommittee on the subject. When the moon recess was taken the meeting was discussing the building material

Heavy Mortgages Carried.

Mr. Ham, in reporting for the land committee, asserted that there are many large tracts of vacant land in the District, some of which are mortgaged almost up to their present value. Making of loans on idle land in the District is holding back building activities.

Mr. Ham contended. The chairman of the subcommia of the land further declared that lots of these undeveloped tracts were said years ago at high prices in anticipation of what they are worth toda, Later in the hearing it was testified that he paid \$2.000 for two lots in the northwest nineteen years ago and today he is only offered \$1.800 for them. Mr. Ham said this illustration demonstrated his point.

Mrs. Ell Helmick, chairman of the Commissioners' housing committee, interposed to express the belief that no doubt vacant lots are being sold today at prices which the property be reported for another week at least will not be worth for many years to

A. J. Driscoll, president of the Mid-City Citizens' Association, told the committee there are the vacant build-ing lots in the territory of his asso-ciation, bounded by New Jersey ave-nue. 16th street, G street and Florida avenue. He voiced the opinion that builders could get as good a return from the erection of homes on these lots in the center of the city as they no from new suburban homes.

John Donlin, representing organized labor, and several others engaged in a lengthy discussion of the cost of steel.

Little Steel Bard.

Harry Blake, connected with a large steel fabricating concern and building supply house in Washington, brought this discussion to an end when he called attention to the fact that only about \$35 worth of steel enters into the construction of the average home and, therefore, it was useless to waste time discussing the national aspects of the steel situation.

About a minor dollars for carrying out these purposes, but it does not make any appropriation for the purchase of these tracts. It is argued that if the Senate amendment was accepted the present owners would still retain their property rights in these tracts. steel enters into the construction of

Mr. Blake declared a more impor-tant situation to take up is the fact that there is a shortage in the brick supply in Washington at the present time. He said he knew of one firm that had unfilled orders for ten million brick.

The hearing will continue until 5 o'clock this afternoon, during which time several other phases of the housing situation will be taken up.

SWOLLEN MISSISSIPPI

By the Associated Press. CAIRO, Ill., April 15 .- The levee at Grand Tower broke this morning and the swollen Mississippi spread over 5,000 acres of cultivated land. The water is eleven feet deep in some

INUNDATES 5.000 ACRES

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 15 .- Without venturing a prediction as to maximum stages, a weather bureau bulletin issued today forecasts an "increased and indefinitely prolonged flood in the Mississippi river as a result of excessive rains in the Ohio valley during the last twenty-four hours, which caused a rise of 6.9 feet in the river at Pittsburgh; 10.2, at Parkersburg; 9.8, at Cincinnati, and 1.3, at Louisville, since yesterday.

TELL OF PLOT ON SOVIET.

By the Associated Press. BERLIN, April 14.—Russian soviet BERLIN, April 14.—Russian soviet representatives here have notified the German government that a group of Russian monarchists have arrived in Berlin from Sofia, planning an attempt on the life of Karl Radek, soviet envoy, who is remaining in Berlin as Ilaison officer between Genoa and Moscow.

According to the Rote Fahne, the leader of the group, which is keeping in close touch with Bavarian monarchists, is Col. Masalsky, former czarist officer, who was concerned in the Kronstadt sailors' mutiny in 1912. ilors' mutiny in 1917,

HAYS ASKED TO STOP SHOWING OF PICTURES FEATURING ARBUCKLE

y the Associated Press. NEW YORK, April 14.—Will H. Hays, director of the National Association of Picture Producers and Distributors, was called upon to prevent exhibition of motion pictures featuring Roscoe C. "Fatty" Arbuckle by the Lord's Dal Alliance of New York in a letter made public today.

Calling Arbuckle's acquittal of a charge of manslaughter and the jury's statement in his behalf a "whitewash," the letter to Mr.

"whitewash," the letter to Mr. Hays says:

"We appeal to you. We are not informed as to the exact bounds of your authority in the motion picture industry, but heretofore you have granted interviews and authorized public statements containing sentiments which your fellow citizens interested in the moral wellbeing of the nation have grate-

low citizens interested in the moral wellbeing of the nation have gratefully welcomed.

"The request, therefore, which we respectfully urge upon you is that you use your authority to intervene and prevent the outrage to the moral sensibilities of the citizens of this country threatened in the proposal to again exhibit any Arbuckle films.

"In case it should be that the exercise of such authority is not within the bounds of your power as director of the motion picture industry, we then urge that you use your great personal influence for the accomplishment of this end."

and."
At the offices of Mr. Hays today it was said he had gone to Sullivan, Ind., to spend Easter, and would reply to the letter when he returned next week.

CONFEREES AGREE

Institution for Feeble-minded to Be Located at Blue Plains.

The conferees on the District appropriation bill have agreed to locate the Home for Feeble-minded on the *00 acres with the Home for the Aged Infirm at Blue Plains. An aption of \$250,000 is to be carried

for er ction of a building. While tentative agreements have been reached on the new conduit from Great Falls and most of the other matters in dispute between the House and Senate, it is probable, according to Chairman Davis, of the House conferees and others who have been at tending the conferences, that the agree ment between the two houses will no

The rewriting of the first paragrap of the bill which covers the fiscal regovernments is the biggest stumbling

be impossible for the District to really draw any money out of the Treasury. A similar joker appears in regard to

PRESIDENT NAMES WOMAN.

Charged With Criminal Correspondence With Foreigners.

Mrs. Joseph T. Bowen of Chicago has been appointed by President Harding as a delegate to the pan-American women's conference to be held at Baltimore this spring.

WORSHIPPERS LASHED WITH THORNS TIE BLEEDING BROTHER TO CROSS

ial Dispatch to The Star. ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., April 15. -In four counties of New Mexico and the eastern part of Arizona scores of members of Los Hermanos Penitentes (the penitent brothers) today are picking cactus spines from their own and each other's backs. Other members, who played stellar roles in the crucifixion ceremonies of the order on Good Friday, are lying in improvised tents terribly ex-

hausted. Although great secrecy usually is imposed concerning the observation of the penitent celebration. this year the bars were somewhat let down. One of the ceremonials took place only a short distance from this place and was watched by a party of selected sightseers from here.

The largest and most important of the colonies of the sect gathers annually at the Easter season in a cleft in the San Dias mountains, south of Albuquerque. Here they lash each other with their plaited cactus and erect their cross. Each family that attended Friday's ceremonial had prepared for days for the trip into the mountains. Only the most simple means of transportation was used. The majority of the penitents added to their castigation by making, the trip on foot. The aged and the children were also

lowed to ride in rude wagons or upon burros. However, the aged were not excluded from the whipping ceremonies, and, if one had lost his or her life, because of the fanatical practices, he would have been considered a fortunste brother, who "had been called above washed of his sins."

dicated weeks previously by the priests and chieftains, the penitents established their rude camps, although very little attention was paid to physical comfort. Twelve brethren were selected to erect the cross. Throughout Thursday night all prostrated themselves in prayer, chanting the words in unison. On a peak overlooking the valley was stationed a lookout, who remained rigidly scanning the eastern sky for the first faint traces of the morning sun. As the warning streaks of red signalled the break of dawn on Friday morning this sentinel raised his voice in a loud, wild cry warning the praying brethren that their hour was ap-

brethren that their hour was approaching.

Immediately the accumulated castus whips were passed out, several being allotted to each family. The male members were stripped to the waist. Only thin garments were permitted on the others, and these hung in tatters on the bleeding, swollen bodies long before the ceremonies were at an end.



Enlarging of Mount Alto or New Institution Now Believed Assured.

LANGLEY BILL PASSAGE PROVIDES NEEDED FUNDS

President Has Already Indicated His Approval-3,000 Patients in This District.

Washington may get either a great new veterans' hospital or additions to Mount Alto Hospital, through allo cation of funds from the Langley bill passed yesterday by the House, and now awaiting the President's signature. Seventeen million dollars is appropriated for expenditure by the Veterans' Bureau. The President has indicated his willingness to sign the

Although it is understood tentative allocation of the funds provided has een proposed by the Veterans' Bureau, and no definite proportion has as yet been assigned to the fourth district, of which Washington is the most important center, it was learned today that in certain influential circles there is a strong movement to have erected in this city a great general hospital, of the nature of Walter Reed, but of permanent construction for the use of the Veterans' Bureau to leave Walter Reed for the Army

alone.

Director Forbes of the Veterans' Bureau is understood to have stated that hospitals will be constructed with the money provided by the Langley bill/at places where they are most needed, and that there will be no heeding to political influence for the relocation.

3,000 Patients in Fourth District. The fourth dsitrict has put in claim to its share of the seventeen million dollars, and owing to the high relative importance of the district, it has been estimated that perhaps this dis-

overnments is the biggest stumbling clust in the territory of his association, bounded by New Jersey avenue, is the street, G street and Ffordia avenue. He voiced the opinion that builders could get as good a return builders could get as good a return from the erection of homes on these loss in the center of the city as they con from new subuptan homes.

It is carried the opinion that the center of the city as they con from new subuptan homes.

It is carried the opinion that the center of the city as they con from new subuptan homes.

It is carried to the conference of the city as they confered the opinion that the center of the city as they confered the opinion that the confered the confered that there are now three districts for the veterance of the confered that there are now three districts for the veterance of the fourth district, and the confered that there are now three districts for the Veterance of the fourth district, and the confered that there are now three districts for the veterance of the confered that there are now three districts for the Veterance of the fourth district, and the confered that there are now three districts for the veterance of the confered that there are now three districts for the veterance of the confered that there are now three districts for the veterance of the confered that there are now three districts for the veterance of the confered that there are now three districts for the veterance of the confered that there are now three districts for the veterance of the confered that there are now there district for the Veterance of the confered that there are now there district for the Veterance of the confered that there are now there district, for the Veterance of confered that there are now there district, for the Veterance of the confered that there are now there district, for the Veterance of the confered that there are now there district, for the Veterance of the confered that the con

Complaint against Senator France

Prostrated in Prayer. Arrived at the chosen spot, in-



THE SKEPTIC.

WILSON'S HEALTH GAINING STEADILY

Former President Working More Every Day, But He

Shuns Politics.

Former President Woodrow Wilson is in better health today than at any trict might receive about one-tenth of time since his breakdown in Septemappropriation. The district is ber, 1919. He is able to walk around third in the list, as to number of hos- his home, for instance, without the pitalized patients, with 3,000, being assistance of a cane or the support of

surpassed only by the New York, or second district, comprising the states of New York and New Jersey, and the fifth district in the southeast, including great hospitals in the Blue Ridge mountains.

Official epinion as to just what should be located in Washington in the new building program has been divided, it was learned, some officials pulling for a great general hospital assistance of a cane or the support of a companion. His voice is clear. He does more work every day.

This constant improvement has surprised physicians. Not long ago Dr. Charles Mayo of Rochester, Minn., vistored with the new building program has been divided, it was learned, some officials pulling for a great general hospitals. divided, it was learned, some officials used the agreement of the pulling for a great general hospital in Washington, others holding that to Mr. Wilson's indomitable will. Mr. this city offers too many diversions for the rapid progress of convalues.

Wilson has obeyed physicians' inspections implicitly and beautiful.

cepted any of the numerous opportunities offered him to write for
newspapers on current events. He
conceives the duty of an ex-President is to keep silent. He has refused
steadfastly to do anything that might
embarrass the incumbent President,
In this course Mr. Wilson is said to

he attended a matinee of "Ziegfeld Follies."

Attention has been focused again on the question of Mr. Wilson's health because he has seen fit to take Issue publicly with his former secretary, Complaint against Senator France of Maryland was filed today by Miss Mary G. Kilbreth of New York, vice president of the Woman Patriot Publishing Company, who asked the Attorney General to prosecute Senator France for alleged violation of the statute prohibiting criminal correspondence with foreign governments in his communications to foreign delegates to the Genoa conference.

In her complaint to the Attorney General Miss Kilbreth cites the statute in question and cable messages declared sent by Senator France to Lloyd George, Barthou, "Facts," Wirth and Tchitcherin, at the Genoa conference as violations of the act. Joseph P. Tumulty. The incident is

assisted them materially by taking sides in the preconvention fight which culminated in the nomination of Gov. Cox in 1920.

The factionalism in the democratic party is so intense that many democrats of national prominence have despaired of harmony. Mr. Cox's speeches have been so obviously in support of the major Wilson policies, especially the league of nations, that Mr. Wilson cannot take sides against him, no matter how friendly he might wish to be to the other factions. As for the McAdoo supporters, there is no evidence to show they are receiving any direct encouragement from Mr. Wilson. There is, on the contrary, every reason to believe that for the present, at least, Mr. Wilson is anxious to have the democrats of the country know he is maintaining absolute neutrality. This may be one anxious to have the democrats of the country know he is maintaining absolute neutrality. This may be one reason why he was irritated over the use made of the Tumulty message by some of those who interpreted it as friendly to the political for unes of James M. Cox. Mr. Wilson is getting better physically, but it is doubtful whether he will ever get into the political fray again. (Copyright, 1922.)

FIFTY WOMEN ASK OFFICE

Pennsylvania Aspirants Include Four Seeking Congress Seats. HARRISBURG, Pa., April 15 .- More

than afty Pennsylvania women are PROVIDES NEW D. C. JUDGES ers, and these hung in tatters on the bleeding, swollen bodies long before the ceremonies were at an end.

The worshipers ranged them(Continued on Page 15, Column 2.)

aspirants for political office in the state this year. They have announced themselves as candidates for nomination at the primaries next month. Four are candidates for Congress, but most of them seek seats in the state legislature.

Under a bill introduced today by Senator Phipps of Colorado, two additional justices of the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia would be provided. The bill was restate legislature.

THORNE OUT FOR SENATE. Counsel for Farm Federation Re-By the Associated Press. CHICAGO, April 15. — Clifford

Thorne, general counsel for the American Farm Bureau Federation today formally announced his candidacy for the republican nomination for United States senator from Iowa. He simultaneously tendered his resignation to the Farm Bureau Federation.

DISTRICT AGENTS

of food inspectors, headed by Dr. R.

R. Ashworth, and the sanitary inspection force, led by Chief Inspector

Illinois said, "We extended the time before, and we will do it again. There

Charles R. Holman.

Records of the fire department show that rats and mice are responsible for many fires in Washington every year, and Fire Chief George Watson expressed the belief that his inspection in the consideration and not enough consideration to the landlords, urging that the House tors engaged in fire prevention work will play an important part in the campaign against rats by calling to the attention of watches and complaints of the landlords as well as those of the tenants. the attention of merchants, apartment house owners and heads of office buildings, the danger of rodents

starting confiagrations.

Most of the fires caused by rats result from matches left where they can be gnawed. Chief Watson said that in old buildings, where electric wires may not be inclosed in pipa, there is even greater possibility of rate starting fires. that in old buildings, where electric wires may not be inclosed in pipa, there is even greater possibility of rats starting fires.

The fire chief has in his office a gruesome picture of a huge rat that was found electrocuted on the wires in a building. He had gnawed at the

So, the Commissioners point out, it behooves every business man and householder to start after the rats on his premises, not only as a health measure, but as a means of preventing fires that might destroy the property.

Records in the fire marshal's office the fire marshal's office behavior and other apartments, which are occupied principally by millionaires, senators and representa-

the sanitary inspection service, to his office this morning and instructed them to co-operate in the anti-rat

campaign.

All of these inspectors will, in making their daily rounds, call the rat campaign to the attention of storekeepers, lunchroom proprietors, managers of industrial establishments and owners of junk shops.

The inspectors will ask each proprietor to regard it as a civic duty to rid his premises of rats. The inspectors will warn food dealers to exercise great care if they use poison to catch rats.

The health officer would prefer to see traps used in such places.

Concurrence With Senate's Action Expected Within Next Two Weeks.

The Ball rent act, extending the life of the Rent Commission in the District for two years, which passed the Senate yeserday, went back to the House today. It is generally believed that the House will promptly concur in the Senate action within two weeks.

While it is pointed out that a similar

Attack on the proposed extension

House today by Representative Mills-paugh of Missouri, a member of the House District committee, who said he had personally investigated situation, and spoke at this time, was found electrocuted on the wires in a building. He had gnawed at the insulation until he reached the live current and was instantly riveted to the wire, dead.

Might Start Blase.

In this particular instance the only inscitutions as you may choose to inscitutions.

In this particular instance the only result was the death of the rat, but it might as easily have been the starting of a disastrous blaze.

So, the Commissioners point out, it in the District.

STUART OUT ON BOND. Alexandria Lawyer to Take Case

to Higher Court

Special Dispatch to The Star.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., April 15.—Attorney Frank Stuart, who yesterday morning was fined \$25 and sentenced to serve five days in jail by Judge Robinson Moncure for alleged contempt of court, this morning appeared before Judge Moncure in chamber and made application to the court for bond, preparatory to applying to the state court of appeals for a writ of

error.

Judge Moncure fixed his bond at \$250, which was furnished by M. B. Harlow. Attorney Stuart, therefore, will not spend the five days in jail, pending the decision of the appeals court. He has sixty days in which to apply to the higher court for a writ of error.

FOUND BY MEYER

General Improvement Seen on Tour of Twenty States West of Mississippi.

Business conditions in the west and southwest have improved 100 per cent over last fall, Eugene Meyer, jr., managing director of the War Fi-

"Agriculturally the outlook for crop planting is a little late, but this is more than compensated for by the prevailing moisture. There is a feeling that agricultural prospects have never been so good in years because of the moisture, and, in sec-

because of the moisture, and, in sections where there has been a scarcity of rain for the last two years, the outlook is good, and farmers are much encouraged."

The larger banks throughout the west, he asserted, report condition as much improved, but the smaller banks are dependent upon the outcome of the year's harvest. Farmers will be able, he added, to produce the cheapest crop in years, as there is a satisfactory supply of labor in evidence, with increased efficiency.

The buying power of the farmers, Mr. Meyer asserted, will be somewhat restricted this year, as they are buying only necessities.

While it is pointed out that a similar act passed the House before by an overwhelming majority, some opposition has since developed, and new features have been added which the members of the House District committee are anxious to study carefully before they take action.

Three groups of District agents who come daily in contact with the public were enrolled today for service in the Commissioners' war on rats. These agencies are: The inspection force of Fire Marshal Selb, the corps of food inspectors, headed by Dr. R. R. Ashworth, and the sanitary inspectiation, and Representative Wheeler of Repayment for the period approximation. Wheeler of Missouri today issued a for office and Representative Wheeler of Repayment for the period approximation.

Mr. Meyer asserted, will be somewhat the sesticiced this year, as they are buying only necessities. They decime the basis for European conditions are bad. They give as since developed, and new features have been decimed the year, as they are buying only necessities.

The adventure have before by an overwhelm managers and farm journals. In in newspapers and farm journals. In in the advertising only necessities.

The pointed out that a similar act passed the House before by an overwhelm managers and farm journals. In in newspapers and farm journals. In in newspapers and farm journals. In in newspapers and farm journals. In in the advertising only necessities.

The adventure have before they take action.

The Russians also propose an in the northwest cattle country, he said, is reflected in the advertising only necessities.

The propose state of the House District committee are anxious to study carefulty and reversed in the advertising only necessities.

The propose state of the House District committee are anxious to study and the found evidences of increased buying on the advertising of gold to states whose finam in the northwest cattle country, he said, is reflect

ON SIZE OF NAVY

of the Ball rent act was made in the House to Decide on Amendment Providing 86,000 Men.

The House by unanimous consent agreed today to vote late this afternoon on an amendment to the naval appropriation bill providing for an enlisted force of 86,000 men. The vote made their reply to the report today, will come at the end of four hours of but this has been postponed indefi-debate, which started shortly after

they cut it to 67,000 the Senate would increase it.

Some had advocated a split between the committee figures and the Mc-Arthur amendment calling for 86,000 which had the indorsement of President Harding, but as it had narrowed down to a straight test between "big and little" navy men, neither side seemed willing to consider a compromise.

mise.
Should the committee proposal be should the committee proposal be adopted, as Chairman Kelley claimed, there would be no chance of a recorded vote in the House proper. But should the amendment providing for \$6,000 win, as its backers claimed, Chairman Kelley said he would demand a record vote next week in the House, in the hope of overturning it.

PRESIDENT MEETS GIRLS.

Twenty-Five Camp Fire Members Hike From Baltimore.

President Harding today received twenty-five Camp Fire Girls from Baltimore, who walked from that city to Washington in two days, and who were headed by Miss Lola Tebbs. and determinations of the commission, it will readily appear that the total net reduction of rents for one year will be less than \$12,000, while the expenses of the commission to (Continued on Page 2, Column 3.)

who were headed by Miss Lola Tebbs. The presentations were made by Rev. A. H. Zimmerman of Washington and Great Falls, Va. The girls presented to the executive a large basket of pink roses as a token of their good wishes and esteem.

UNSCALED MOUNTAIN IS CLIMBED BY TWO U. S. COLLEGE ATHLETES

ALEXANDROPOL, Armenia, April 15.-After baffling expert mountain climbers for years, the great Mount Alagheus, one of the highest peaks in the Caucasus, has been ascended by two American college athletes, Roy Davis, Mon-ticello, Ark., and R. H. Anderson of Connecticut. Davis was an allround athlete at Erskine and later base ball coach for the American

By the Associated Press.

Mount Alagheuz rises 13,500

College in Egypt. Anderson was captain of Wesleyan's 1918 foot feet from a broad plateau about thirty miles east of Alexandropol. The Americans had made two previous attempts to reach the summit, which is regarded as even more difficult than the ascent of Mount Blanc. On their third and successful attempt they mounted nearly to the snowline, on American Army mules, which left 5,000 feet of the most difficult and perilous climbing before them.

Passing the night in a little Kurdish village below the snowline, they started at 8 o'clock in the morning and by rapid climbing reached the summit before dark. After carving their names and address in a large rock, they returned to the 8,000-foot level by midnight.

MADE AT GENOA ON **RUSSIAN QUESTION**

Soviets Present Concrete Financial Proposals Favorable to Allies.

PILES DOWN FOR BRIDGE. **DECLARES LLOYD GEORGE**

Germans in Saar Appeal to Conference and Pope-French Autocratic, They Say.

By the Associated Press. GENOA, April 15 .- A distinct advance toward settlement of the Rus-

sian question was registered by the economic conference today, conference leaders declared. Prime Minister Lloyd George of Great Britain expressed this view in one of his characteristic figurative

utterances, saying: managing director of the War Finance Corporation, declared today upon his return from a survey of twenty states west of the Mississippi, made at the request of President Harding.

"Easier money in the east is bringing money on land mortgages into the west for the first time in a long time," said Mr. Meyer. "Mines are reopening, which should help conditions in Utah, Montana and Arizona.

"Agriculturally the outlook for "We are building a bridge across

groups. Russians Present Proposals

The Russians, it became known to-day, have presented concrete financial proposals in which they say they are in perfect accord with the allies over the urgent necessity of estab-lishing a monetary basis in all coun-tries putting an end to "feudalism".

over the urgent necessity of establishing a monetary basis in all countries, putting an end to "feudalism," which they declare is reigning especially in_the matter of exchanges.

They also agree to the necessity for each country to balance its own budget, curtail paper currency and reduce expenses, especially those for armaments, which they declare in some countries are the chief cause of deficits.

They urge an Anglo-American accord in order to establish a permanent purchasing power for their currency, which they declare should become the basis for European currencies. They insist upon the necessity of granting credits or loans of gold to states whose financial conditions are bad. They give as an example the American federal reserve banks, which they say might put part of their gold reserve at the disposal of central banks of countries needing it, doing this by lending gold or by opening special credits.

Propose Money Canvention.

The Russians also propose an international monetary convention, whose object would be to fix a stable ratio between the currencies of the various states. They conclude their proposals by emphasizing Russia's urgent need of being granted a loan in the state of Mr. Lloyd George, in discussing the situation with the Associated Press correspondent, said capitalism, which had been expected to be the chief stumbling block in effecting an agree-ment with the Russians, had been

ment with the Russians, had been scarcely touched at all, and that apparently this would be greatly overshadowed by financial problems.

Financial and economic experts of Great Britain, France, Italy and Belgium gathered today to continue the discussions, began yesterday, of the conditions under which the rehabilitation of Russia will be undertaken. They were to be joined by the principal delegates of the four inviting powers and soviet Russia in the afternoon.

The discussions were started yesterday at an informal meeting of the more important delegates in the villa of Mr. Lloyd George, British prime minister, the basis of negotiation being the report prepared by the allied experts in London, copies of which were handed to the Russians earlier in the week.

in the week.

Soviet Reply Postponed. The soviet delegates were to have nitely, and will probably be based on Running uppermost in the minds of the understanding reached at the House members, as they squared away today for the first big fight over the enlisted personnel section of the naval bill, was the thought that if they cut it to 67,000 the Senate would knowledge Russia's pre-war debts present series of conferences. It is and to cancel their claims against the allies if the allies will do like-

wise with Russia's war debts.

Yesterday's informal meeting really marked the inauguration of a steering committee, and is in line with the efforts of Mr. Lloyd George and other leaders to speed up the work of the conference. It is believed differences of opinion can be more easily adjustant in private conference, thus elimitation. ed in private conference, thus elimi ed in private conference, thus eliminating long debates at full sessions of the various commissions of which the conference proper is composed. There has been a total absence of formal dinners and luncheons, but the leaders are dining together in small groups and utilizing the meal time for conference business.

Experts Tackling Issues. The designation of numbers of small

subcommissions also is in line with this policy of time-saving. Under this scheme, consideration of the main subjects is left chiefly to experts, and interminable discussions by those not thoroughly informed are avoided. One month has been set as the time limit, in which the diplomats generally expect it will be known whether the conference can achieve its purposes. Mr. Lloyd George expects to leave on April 27, and is making every effort to have the big decisions arranged before then. Although the conference worked un-(Continued on Page 2, Column 8.)

Today's News in Brief. District agents join war on rats.

Better business seen by head of Wa Finance Corporation. Page Washington may get new general hos-pital for veterans. Page 1 unions blamed for coal strike. Tariff fight in Senate promises to be endurance contest, with result in doubt. Page 2

Capt. Wanner, local diver, to try to recover bodies from eabin of sub-merged boat. Page 2 merged boat.

Creditors of defunct steamship company to amount of \$1,500,000 assured of early definite action.

Page 4

Committee of Fine Arts Society will give instruction in growing of flowers and vines.

places. All residents are believed to have reached high ground.